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# Panel Backs New Secrecy For CIA Acts

## Covert Operations Reports Restricted To Two Committees

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The House Foreign Affairs Committee voted yesterday to supplant the law governing the Central Intelligence Agency's covert operations with a new rule providing for much more secrecy.

Acting on a series of voice votes after a closed-door briefing from the CIA, the committee decided to restrict reports to Congress about covert operations to the Senate and House intelligence committees, and to allow the president to avoid prior notification when he deems it "essential."

A move to require the president to give at least some vague advance notice of especially risky operations — without specifying any details — was beaten down.

It was the first test this year of the Carter administration's drive to get rid of restraints imposed on the CIA in the mid-1970s and provide it with a freer hand in the new Cold War atmosphere.

Rep. Lee H. Hamilton (D-Ind.) had won approval last week from a Foreign Affairs subcommittee of a flat rule calling for prior notice to Congress of all covert operations, but he trimmed it back substantially in the face of opposition from the CIA and committee Chairman Clement J. Zablocki (D-Wis.).

The final version, sponsored by

# Additional Secrecy For CIA Supported

CIA, From A1

colleagues that the notifications themselves are supposed to be tightly guarded secrets. "There's nothing in my amendment that says it would be broadcast to the media or anyone else," he said.

The present law governing covert operations, known as the Hughes-Ryan amendment, was enacted in 1974 as part of that year's foreign aid bill. The Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday approved the new version in the process of marking up this year's foreign aid authorizations.

Under the provisions of Hughes-Ryan, no covert actions in foreign countries can be undertaken "unless and until the president finds each such operation important to the national security and reports, in a timely fashion, a description and scope of such operation to the appropriate committees" of Congress. Eight Senate and House committees, including Foreign Affairs, are entitled to receive those reports under the law, although one of the panels, House Armed Services, has said it doesn't want them.

Yesterday's action would cut the number to two, the Senate and House In-